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Fax:	(703) 872-9306	Pages:	8 (including Fax coversheet)
Phone:	(571) 272-1387	Date:	March 15, 2005
Re:	Serial No.: 09/941,453 Filing Date: 08/28/2001 Applicant: Numerical Technologies, Inc. Atty. Dkt. No.: NTI-024		

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• Comments:

FOLLOWING IS: PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Fang-Cheng Chang

Atty.Dkt.No: NTI-745 (024)

Assignee: Synopsys, Inc.

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING DUMMY FEATURES
ON A MASK LAYER

Serial No. 09/941,453 File Date: August 28, 2001

Examiner: Saleha R. Mohamedulla

Art Unit: 1756

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Initial Comments:

Claims 1-12, 48-52, and 55-56 are pending in the present application. Claims 13-47 and 53-54 are cancelled. Claims 1, 6, 48, and 55 are amended in this paper.